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Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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64
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SCI-06

FEA-02 AEC-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20

COME-00 DRC-01 /246 W
---------- 017967
R 232110Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3534
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
USLO PEKING

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1570

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IN, CA
UNCLASSIFIED

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SUBJECT: CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AID TO

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INDIA

REF: OTTAWA 1542 AND OTTAWA 1544

1. SUMMARY. THE PRESS REPORTED ON MAY 23 THAT EXTAFF MINISTER SHARP ANNOUNCED CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S SUSPENSION ON ALL SHIPMENTS TO INDIA OF NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL, AND ENDING ALL EXCHANGES WITH INDIA OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS, EXTAFF MINISTER SHARP, ON MAY 22, ANNOUNCED THAT NUCLEAR AID TO INDIA WILL BE HALTED AS A RESULT OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR BLAST. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO REVIEWING FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND MIGHT STOP SHIPMENT OF OTHER INDUSTRIAL COMMODITIES ALTHOUGH THERE WOULD BE NO INTERRUPTION OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL AID.

3. SHARP MADE STATEMENTS AT A NEWS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING A LONG CABINET MEETING. HE INDICATED THE STEPS ARE IN RESPONSE TO THE INDIAN DETONATION OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE. APPARENTLY, CANADA HAS PROPOSED EARLY DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIA ON FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES "INCLUDING DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE DETONATION FOR INDIA'S ECONOMIC PRIORITIES."

4. MR. SHARP IS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING "WE MAY HAVE WITNESSED THE BEGINNING OF THE BREAKDOWN OF THE SYSTEM THAT EXISTED." THE 1970 NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) MAY HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATORY IN FAVOR OF THE BIG POWERS BUT IT WAS AT LEAST ONE HOPE FOR CONTAINING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, MR. SHARP SAID. SHARP INDICATED THAT CANADA "WANTS TO KNOW THE SOURCE OF THE PLUTONIUM USED... THE PLUTONIUM USED IN THE BOMB DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM CANADIAN FUEL. BUT IT WAS POSSIBLE THE PLUTONIUM WAS PRODUCED IN A REACTOR THAT CANADA GAVE TO INDIA..."

5. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, MR. SHARP SAID THAT "CANADA WOULDN'T AGREE TO ANY REFINANCING OF INDIA'S COMMERCIAL DEBT TO CANADA, WHICH IS LARGELY RELATED TO INDIA'S NUCLEAR
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ENERGY PROGRAM."

6. APPARENTLY, EXTAFF OFFICIALS HAVE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS 1971 EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN PRIMIN TRUDEAU AND PRIMIN INDIRA GANDHI THAT "REVEALS THE CANADIAN CONCERN THAT INDIA WAS INTENT ON EXPLODING A NUCLEAR DEVICE."
PORTER

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OTTAWA01570
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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To: STATE
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